AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag, said inflators having metal housing shells with wiring harnesses attached thereto for activation and combustible gas generating material therein, comprising:

preparing inflators to be thermally treated without destroying vehicles;

cutting and removing said wiring harnesses therefrom;

grouping said inflators according to those metals constituting said housing shells; and

charging the respective groups of inflators which have been subjected to treatment in the preceding steps into thermal treating towers to subject said inflators to thermal treatment at a temperature at which said gas generating materials inside the inflators burn without melting those metals constituting said housing shells.

2. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1, wherein said inflators include plastic parts, further comprising removing said plastic parts prior to the step of conducting thermal treatment of said inflators.

3. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1, wherein said inflators have various shapes, further comprising grouping said inflators according to such shapes prior to the step of conducting thermal treatment of said inflators.

4. (original) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 3, wherein the shapes of the inflators are disk-shaped or cylinder-shaped.

5. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 4, wherein, when the shapes of the inflators are cylinder-shaped, the inflators comprise either pyrotechnic or hybrid types and are further grouped as said pyrotechnic and hybrid types, respectively.

6. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein those metals constituting said inflators are aluminum, iron or stainless steel constituting said housing shells of the inflators.

7. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1, comprising, in the following order;

(A) cutting and removing wire harnesses connected for inflator actuation,

(B) removing plastic parts,

(C) grouping said inflators according to those metals constituting said housing shell,

(D) further grouping said inflators according to the shapes of the inflators, and

(E) charging respective groups of the inflators which have been subjected to treatment in the preceding steps into one or more thermal treating towers to subject said groups of inflators to thermal treatment at a temperature at which gas generating materials inside the inflators burn without melting those metals constituting said housing shells.

8. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 7, wherein, in the (C) and (D) steps, the inflators are grouped according to both the metal of the housing shell and shape thereof as selection references.

9. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 7, wherein prior to thermal treatment said method is conducted in a lightning protected environment.

10. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 7, wherein the thermal treatment includes charging each group of inflators into a ~~said~~ thermal treating tower after the temperature inside ~~a~~ said thermal treating tower is elevated up to said temperature at which the gas generating materials inside the inflators burn without melting those metals constituting said housing shells, and

after completing the inflator charging, maintaining said temperature for a time of 1 to 100 times a time required to complete thermal treatment of an inflator.

11. (currently amended) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 10, wherein, after inflator charging, said temperature is maintained for a time of 3 to 30 times the time ~~a time~~ required to complete thermal treatment of an inflator.

12. (previously presented) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1 or 7, wherein the inflators are treated using a thermal treatment equipment provided with a thermal treating tower, an inflator charging apparatus for the thermal

treating tower, a heating apparatus inside the thermal treating tower, and a cooling apparatus of a gas exhausted from the thermal treating tower.

13. (previously presented) A method for recovering those metals constituting the housing shells of inflators after completing the high temperature treating method according to claim 1 or 7, comprising:

subsequently cooling the interior of the thermal treating tower, thereafter removing said inflators from said tower, and thereafter melting the inflators.

14. (currently amended) A metal recovering method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 13, further comprising: ~~comprising a step of~~

_____cutting apart the inflators into pieces prior to the step of melting the inflators.

15. (currently amended) A metal recovering method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the inflator-cutting step prevents inflators having sealed outer shell structures or the inflators ~~those~~ holding water from exploding during said melting step.

16. (new) A metal recovering method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 1, wherein the preparing step includes the step of recovering the inflator by cutting the wire harness.

17. (new) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag, said inflators having metal housing shells with wiring harnesses attached thereto for activation and combustible gas generating material therein, comprising:

cutting and removing said wiring harnesses therefrom;

grouping said inflators according to metals constituting said housing shells; and

charging the respective groups of inflators which have been subjected to treatment in the preceding steps into thermal treating towers to subject said inflators to thermal treatment at a temperature at which said gas generating materials inside the inflators burn without melting those metals constituting said housing shells.

18. (new) A high temperature treating method for inflators for an air bag according to claim 17, wherein

charging step includes the step of carrying out the thermal treatment at a temperature of 550°C or higher.

19. (new) A method for recovering those metals constituting the housing shells of inflators after completing the high temperature treating method according to claim 17, comprising:

subsequently cooling the interior of the thermal treating tower, thereafter removing said inflators from said tower, and thereafter melting the inflators.